

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 02246 280707Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /093 W

-----059244 280937Z /15

R 271625Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8183

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2246

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, SS, MR, MO, AG, SP, SG

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: REPORT MAURITANIA SEEKING SENEGALESE
MEDIATION ON SAHAR

REF: (A) MADRID 7146 (NOTAL), (B) NOUAKCHOTT 2163 (NOTAL),
(C) RABAT 5286

1. SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY IMPRESSION THAT MAURITANIAN GOVERN-
MENT (GIRM) IS ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING TO GET SENEGALESE PRESIDENT
SENGHOR TO MEDIATE SAHARA DISPUTE BECAUSE MAURITANIAN ARMED
FORCES HAVE BEEN "BADLY HURT" BY LOSSES OF MATERIEL TO POLISARIO
GUERILLAS (REF A) PRECISELY FITS CURRENT "LINE" OF CONSISTENTLY
PRO-POLISARIO SPANISH EMBASSY IN NOUAKCHOTT. OF SUCCESSION
OF SPANISH DIPLOMATIC DISSIDENTS WHO BELIEVE MADRID SAHARA
POLICY IS AT ONCE WRONG AND UNFORTUNATE (ANDRADA, ALONSO-BURON,
AGULAR), NEWLY ARRIVED CHARGE (ANGULO), WHO
IS ADMITTED MEMBER OF SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTY AND WHO HAS BROTHER
WHO WRITES FOR EL PAIS (OFFICIAL --- SOCIALIST PARTY NEWSPAPER),
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 02246 280707Z

IS THE MOST OBVIOUSLY AND OPENLY BIASED IN FAVOR OF SELF-DETER-
MINATION IN SAHARA WUCH WOULD PRODUCE AN INDEPENDENT SHARAWI
STATE.

2. CONTINUING GUERILLA WAR HAS INDEED IMPOSED SIGNIFICANT COST
IN SONS, TREASURE, DISTRACTION OF GIRM LEADERSHIP FROM URGENT
TASKS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND IN LESSENING POLI-

TICAL/SOCIAL SOLIDARITY OF MAURITANIAN NATION AS AWARENESS GROWS THAT REGIME'S SAHARA POLICY IS COSTING NATION MUCH MORE THAN ANYONE BARGAINED FOR IN 1975. BUT MAURITANIA AND MAURITANIANS ARE NOT HURTING SO BADLY THAT GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO PRESS SENEGALESE (OR SAUDIS, OR ANYONE ELSE) TO SUE FOR MEDIATION ON THEIR BEHALF. CERTAINLY NOT AS RESULT OF LOSS OF SOME MILITARY HARDWARE, AT LEAST NOT SO LONG AS SAUDIS CONTINUE TO PICK UP TAB FOR WAR EFFORT.

3. YET TOP GIRM LEADERSHIP WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO TERMINATE SAHARA WAR VIA A NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION OF MAURITANIAN-MOROCCAN DISPUTE WITH BOUMEDIENE'S ALGERIA, AND WILL IN THE FUTURE AS IT HAS IN THE PAST SUPPORT ANY MEDIATION EFFORT WHICH ITS AFRICAN, ARAB, OR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS ARE MOTIVATED TO UNDERTAKE. MAURITANIAN LEADERSHIP HAS TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED NEGOTIATED COMPOMISE AS SOLUTION TO INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, AND BELIEVES FIRMLY THAT IF LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES MAURITANIANS AND SAHRAWIS COULD EVOLVE SATISFACTORY MODUS VIVENDI IN SIX MONTHS. BUT GIRM DECISION MAKERS ARE PRAGMATIC REALISTS. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT SAHARA RESOLUTION CAN COME ONLY FROM RABAT-ALGIERS AGREEMENT TO COOL IT. AND THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT THERE IS NO RABAT-ALGIERS ACCORD POSSIBLE UNTIL BOUMEDIENE CHANGES HIS MIND ON SAHARA OR IS REMOVED FROM SCENE -- NEITHER OF WHICH THEY EXPECT TO HAPPEN IN NEAR FUTURE. NONETHELESS, SEARCH FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT MUST BE CONTINUOUSLY PRESSED, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT NO OPPORTUNITY FOR RESOLUTION IS MISSED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 02246 280707Z

OR IS SEIZED TARDILY.

4. WITH RUSH OF FOREIGN MINISTRY STAFF TO GET OULD MOUKNASS OFF TO NEW YORK, WE HAVE NOT HAD CHANCE TO QUESTION THE ONE M.F.A. OFFICIAL (SIDI 'ALI) WHO MIGHT KNOW WHAT PRESIDENT AND MOUKNASS WERE ATTEMPTING TO ACHIEVE VIA MINISTER'S HURRIED TRIP TO DAKAR. OUR INTUITION IS STILL THAT TRIP WAS TO GET SENGHOR BACK ON RESERVATION AFTER LE MONDE INTERVIEW (REF B). IN ANY EVENT, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT MEDIATION EFFORT MOUNTED BY SAUDIS STANDS FAR BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS THAN GOOD OFFICES ATTEMPT BY ANY OTHER ARAB OR AFRICAN NATION OR FIGURE, AND ARE FOR THAT REASON MUCH HEARTENED BY RABAT REPORT (REF C) THAT PRINCE FAHD MAY ONCE AGAIN BE BACK IN THE NEGOTIATING LISTS.

HANDYSIDE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NOUAKC02246
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770352-1137
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770917/aaaaaoie.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 59d11b3c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MADRID 7146, 77 NOUAKCHOTT 2163, 77 RABAT 5286
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1118285
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA WATCH: REPORT MAURITANIA SEEKING SENEGALESE MEDIATION ON SAHAR
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, SS, MR, MO, AG, SP, SG, WS, (SENGHOR, LEOPOLD SEDAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59d11b3c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009